55,394 beneficiaries @ Rs. 300/- and Rs. 2.30 crores towards post birth grant for 46,000 girl children @ Rs. 500/- under the Balika Samridhi Yojana;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The amount requested was released to Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Central universities

521. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Central universities, State-wise;

(b) the criteria/basis for grant of the status of a Central University; and

(c) the names of the universities presently under Government's consideration for grant of the status of the Central university, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) At present there are 20 Central Universities functioning in 11 States/UTs of the country as shown below:

Andhra Pradesh - 2, Assam -2, Maharashtra - 2, Manipur-2, Meghalaya - 1, Mizoram - 1, Nagaland - 1, Uttar Pradesh-4, West Bengal-1, Delhi - 4, Pondicherry-1

(b) A Central University is established by the Government of India through an Act of Parliament in response to certain historical, cultural factors or in consideration of Centre - State relations and to help remove regional imbalances.

(c) The Government in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has decided in principle to convert the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (Deemed University), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh); Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh); Tripura University,

Agartala (Tripura) into Central Universities and to establish a Central University in Sikkim.

Urdu medium teachers

522. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of trained teachers who can teach through Urdu medium;

(b) whether Government plan to open teachers' training institutes for the Urdu medium teachers;

(c) if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to give training to the teachers for the Urdu medium schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Recruitment of teachers, including those who can teach through Urdu medium is the responsibility of the State Government.

(b) to (d) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) which is an Apex Body for Teachers Education recognises teacher education courses in Urdu medium run by State Government as well as Non-Government Organisations.

Further, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan all teachers including Urdu medium school teachers are provided annual in-service teachers training.

National centre to study natural calamities and disasters

523. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether various universities have sought financial assistance to set up national centre to study natural calamities and disaster;

(b) if so, the details of these universities; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a)